

Fremont Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes
DRAFT MINUTES
Tuesday, September 4, 2007

Attendance: Kenn Jones, Janice O'Brien, Jack Karcz, Noreen Johnson, Jean Ragonese, Matthew Thomas, Scott Olson, Tina Sturdivant.

Meeting began at 7:15 PM

Glen Oaks

There will be a site walk on Glen Oaks, with Sarah Callahan from Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF) on Thursday September 6, 2007. Meet at the cul-de-sac at the end of Andreski Drive at 8:30 am sharp. Sarah will be walking the boundaries of Glen Oaks and writing an annual report on the status of the property. Mrs. O'Brien has asked for a copy of the status report when completed. All are welcome to attend the walk.

The Sponsor Credit signs have been created and are ready to be installed in the near future. Members of the Conservation Commission met at the entrance to Glen Oaks and decided the best place to install the sign is to the right the existing sign that reads "Glen Oaks Conservation Area". Logo signs were also ordered and are in. These signs will be posted throughout the property in the future as well.

The Conservation Commission has hired Charlie Moreno to create a management plan for Glen Oaks. This plan will outline long term management goals for the property, as well as report of wildlife habitat and possible species to find within those habitats. The project will take about one year to complete. Mr. Moreno began the project in July, and he is expected to report to Conservation Commission sometime in October to on report the status of the plan. He will be meeting with the Commission quarterly until the plan is complete.

ERLAC

Mr. Thomas inquired about the river signs that he has seen in Chester. Mrs. Sturdivant told the members present about the Exeter River Local Advisory Committee's project to purchase signs to show where the Exeter River is located within the eleven watershed towns. She reported that the sign project goal was to educate citizens about the importance of the health of the Exeter River. Nine signs have been purchased for the town of Fremont and will be put up within the next month.

NROC

Mrs. O'Brien gave an update on service grant from NROC. The Natural Resource Inventory text has been completed by Theresa Walker. The Conservation Commission will have final version of the text soon. Mr. Karcz reported that funds were sent today for updating the NRI maps. Mrs. Walker will be editing the text to updating some information and omissions.

CTAP

On Monday, September 24, 2007 at 7 P.M. there will be a workshop held at the Fremont Town Hall called Creating an Open Space Plan. The workshop is run by the Community Technical Assistance Program (CTAP) and representatives from DES, RPC, and SPNHF are expected to be in attendance. Mr. Karcz is the CTAP representative and Mrs. O'Brien is the alternate for the town of Fremont. Mrs. O'Brien offered Fremont as a meeting place for this workshop. It is hoped that the outcome of this workshop would be for the town of Fremont to be selected as a "pilot" recipient by SPNHF, to have assistance in creating an Open Space Plan.

Land Conservation Projects

Mr. Karcz and Mrs. O'Brien have met with four landowners in town that are interested in the possibility of preserving their land. Mike Speltz has also been at the meetings with these interested landowners. He is providing information to landowner on how to work with the town, and what options available to them in meeting their land conservation goals.

Mrs. O'Brien has spoken with all landowners to help them determine what they want to do with their land, so appraisals can be done on the property at some point in the future. Mr. Karcz stated that landowners need to be specific in their preservation goals in order to do the appraisals. Mrs. O'Brien has been in contact with an approved appraiser for this project. She also stated that the appraiser may give a reduced rate for some of the appraisal if all parcels are done at the same time. Once appraisals are complete information can become public.

Mrs. Johnson asked the following questions: What the landowners were asking for questions? (How to work with town, options available for land conservation, tax benefits) How many acres are encompassed with the landowners in question? (Answer: Approximately 350 acres). Is the land in current use? (Answer: Most of it, yes).

Mrs. O'Brien and Mr. Karcz have met with Selectmen to discuss this information and asked for their suggestions. The Selectmen were comfortable with proceeding with the project thus far.

Mrs. Johnson asked where the funding of the project would come from. (Answer: Bond, grants etc.) Mrs. O'Brien asked Mike Speltz about the possibility of LCHIP funding, and hiring a grant writer to pursue funding opportunities for the project. He stated that SPNHF would most likely be able to help out the Conservation Commission and Open Space Committee to find and apply for funding.

Eagle Scout Project

There is a possibility of an Eagle Scout Project coming in the near future. The candidate has met with the Conservation Commission and Selectmen to outline his ideas for a community service project in Glen Oaks (possibly a kiosk and trail work). The project is currently being reviewed by an Eagle Advisor and the Eagle Scout candidate will report back to the Conservation Commission after the project is approved.

Mrs. Sturdivant shared a land conservation possibility with the committee members about a parcel of land located on the Exeter River. The parcel was brought to Mrs. Sturdivant's attention

at the last Exeter River Local Advisory Committee meeting. There was a brief discussion of the property and it was decided that the parcel would be investigated further.

Mrs. O'Brien asked for ideas for the Open Space Committee to work on in the coming months. There is a need for other committee members to come up with ideas or plan events to interest the citizens of Fremont in going out and exploring both the Glen Oaks and Town Forest. The idea of hosting a Fall Foliage Tour was briefly discussed. A Snow-shoeing Event in the winter and a Turtle Walk in the spring was also mentioned. Mrs. Sturdivant volunteered to coordinate and Owl Walk sometime in the coming winter. Mrs. O'Brien provided the names of a few individuals that could help out with the event.

A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes from June was made by Mr. Karcz and seconded by Mr. Olson.

Next months meeting will be on October 2, 2007 at 7 PM on the main floor of Town Hall.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Jones and seconded by Mrs. Johnson. Meeting ended at 8:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Tina Sturdivant